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Appl. No. 10/526297

Reply to Office Action dated September 25, 2009

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A test kit comprising: a water absorbent carrier having an upper surface and a lower surface; a penetration layer having a lower surface held in contact with the upper surface of the water absorbent carrier, the penetration layer also having an upper surface facing away from the upper surface of the water absorbent carrier; and a plurality of coloration pads each having a lower surface held in contact with the upper surface of the penetration layer, each of the coloration pads having an exposed upper surface facing away from the upper surface of the penetration layer; wherein a sample liquid supplied to the water absorbent carrier first is transferred to the penetration layer and then to each of the coloration pads through the penetration layer,

wherein the penetration layer is formed with a plurality of thicknesswise extending pores for allowing the sample liquid to penetrate thicknesswise of the penetration layer while preventing the sample liquid from spreading in a planar direction of the penetration layer, and

wherein the water absorbent carrier spreads the sample liquid in the planar direction of the water absorbent carrier for drawing up by the penetration layer.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The test kit according to Claim 1, wherein the water absorbent carrier includes a laminated portion covered by the penetration layer and a non-laminated sample applying portion extending beyond the penetration layer for exposure to apply the liquid sample.

4. (Cancelled)

Appl. No. 10/526297
Reply to Office Action dated September 25, 2009

5. (Previously Presented) The test kit according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of pores have a size of 0.1~12 μ m.

6. (Previously Presented) The test kit according to Claim 1, wherein the penetration membrane has a porosity of 4~20vol%.

7. (Previously Presented) The test kit according to Claim 1, wherein the penetration membrane is formed by track etching.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The test kit according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of coloration pads are arranged in a matrix.

10. (Original) The test kit according to Claim 1, wherein at least two of the plurality of coloration pads differ from each other with respect to coloration components for allowing measurement of a plurality of items.

11. (Original) The test kit according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of coloration pads are formed within a specific region, and the surface area of the specific region is 2.0~15mm \times 2.0~15mm.

12. (Original) The test kit according to Claim 11, wherein the surface area of the specific region accounted for by the respective coloration pads is no more than 2.0 mm².

Appl. No. 10/526297
Reply to Office Action dated September 25, 2009

13. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a test kit, comprising:
- forming a penetration membrane on an upper surface of a water absorbent carrier, the penetration membrane having a lower surface held in contact with the upper surface of the water absorbent carrier and an upper surface facing away from the upper surface of the water absorbent carrier; and
 - forming a plurality of coloration pads by coating the upper surface of the penetration layer with a reagent liquid containing a coloration component using a non-contact dispenser and by thereafter drying the reagent liquid, each of the coloration pads having a lower surface held in contact with the upper surface of the penetration layer and an exposed upper surface facing away from the upper surface of the penetration layer;
 - wherein the penetration layer is formed with a plurality of thicknesswise extending pores for allowing the sample liquid to penetrate thicknesswise of the penetration layer while preventing the sample liquid from spreading in a planar direction of the penetration layer, and
 - wherein the water absorbent carrier spreads the sample liquid in the planar direction of the water absorbent carrier for drawing up by the penetration layer.
14. (Original) The test kit producing process according to Claim 13, wherein the non-contact dispenser used in the first step is of an inkjet type.
15. (Original) The test kit producing process according to Claim 13, wherein the plurality of coloration pads are formed in a matrix arrangement in the first step.
16. (Original) The test kit producing process according to Claim 13, wherein, in the first step, at least two of the plurality of coloration pads differ from each other with respect to coloration components.
17. (Original) The test kit producing process according to Claim 13, wherein, in the first step, the plurality of coloration pads are formed within a specific region with a surface area of 2.0~15mm×2.0~15mm.

Appl. No. 10/526297
Reply to Office Action dated September 25, 2009

18. (Original) The test kit producing process according to Claim 17, wherein the surface area of the specific region accounted for by the respective coloration pads is set to no more than 2.0mm^2 .

19. (New) The test kit producing process according to Claim 17, wherein the water absorbent carrier includes a laminated portion covered by the penetration layer and a non-laminated sample applying portion extending beyond the penetration layer for exposure to apply the liquid sample.